GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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Contents for Week of November 24, 1941. Vol. XX. No. 20.

1. War Geography of U.S.S.R. Has Similarities in U.S.A.
2. Tokyo: Capital of Contradictions
3. Johnston Island Watched by Navy for 80 Years
4. Afghanistan, a Friendly Barrier between India and the U.S.S.R.
5. Muftis Interpret Moslem Law

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

HIS SHAGGY SHAKO COVERS A SHAVED HEAD

Among the colorful nomad tribes of Afghanistan are the hard-riding, hard-fighting Turkoman people, a warrior race. Turkoman invasions four times sacked Herat, Afghanistan's third largest city, but now the nomads are a peaceful part of the city's population, serving as the provincial governor's guard of honor. These guardsmen follow the tribal custom of shaving their heads and wearing immense moplike shakos of dyed sheepskin (Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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War Geography of U.S.S.R. Has Similarities in U.S.A.

IMAGINE today's war front in the U.S.S.R. mirrored on a map of the United States—that is, with the American east coast corresponding to the Russian western frontier. The position of battle lines would reveal certain striking similarities between the two nations.

On such a mythical "transfer" war map of the United States, Moscow would coincide roughly with Indianapolis; Leningrad would find its closest counterpart in New York City; the Donets Basin would fall in East Texas.

U. S. Government Would Be Refugee in Kansas City

The mighty 600-mile push of the German armies almost to Moscow, the Soviet capital, would be mirrored by penetration from the Atlantic coast about to Indianapolis, important industrial city and capital of Indiana. Washington, D. C., would have been occupied. As a refugee capital, Kansas City would match in location the new emergency Soviet headquarters at Kuibyshev on the Volga.

In position and in importance to their respective countries, New York City and Leningrad have many resemblances. Each is normally its nation's leading port and each has munitions and other defense-vital industries and shipyards.

German forces have made greatest progress in the south, to the major Russian industrial region of the Donets Basin. Comparable advances in the United States would cover eastern Texas and America's most productive oil fields.

Such a battlefront would deprive the United States of almost half its oil wells (Russia's oil sources are still intact); most of its best hard and soft coal mines in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio (with the Donets Basin go the Soviet's greatest coal mines); most of the industrial centers of the East and nearer Middle West (Russia's Ural and Siberian industries are still untouched, and Russians hold factories in the eastern Donets and Moscow areas).

Mississippi Would Be the U. S. Volga

If the Russians lose all their Caucasus oil fields, the loss will be comparable to the United States having to abandon the Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas fields in addition to those east of the Mississippi. Both nations would have considerable oil supplies to fall back on. The United States position, with the rich wells of California and other far-western States still untouched, would be better than the Russian in this respect, because the Caucasus oil fields in 1940 pumped forth about 85 per cent of all Soviet oil, according to some authorities.

Russia has lost her chief iron supplies with the western Ukraine, while the United States' main source of that essential ore, in the Iron Ranges of the western Lake Superior region, would still be far behind the fighting front.

Detroit, Chicago, and St. Louis, lying beyond the invaded regions, would match the untouched Russian cities of Ryazan, Gorki, and Saratov. Giant manufacturing cities of the "occupied" area—Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cleveland, and Cincinnati—would be roughly comparable to German-captured Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Zaporozhe, Nikolaev, and Stalino. The shipyards of Maine, Massachusetts, the Delaware River, and southeastern Virginia would correspond to shipbuilding centers the Soviet Union lost on the Black Sea and the Gulf of Finland. Steel centers in Pennsylvania and Alabama would be counterparts of the Ukraine.

The Volga's twin would be the American Mississippi, both in central position

UMI

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

GHAZNI'S BAZAARS PROSPER BECAUSE THE KHYBER PASS IS NEAR

Although Ghazni is not one of Afghanistan's larger cities, caravan trade through the nation's famous gateway into India brings considerable business. Tea from India, for example, is plentiful. It is shared by merchant and customer during bargaining, just like coffee in bazaars around the Mediterranean. The tea drinker here does not separate cup from saucer, but handles both as a unit. Native Afghan wares to be found in the Ghazni bazaars include coats and rugs of woolly sheepskin, madder roots for dyes and pigments, the medicinal resin asafetida, dried fruits, grain, and wool (Bulletin No. 4).

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Tokyo: Capital of Contradictions

"TOKYO says—" . . . "The news from Tokyo—" . . . "Tokyo has announced—" . . . "We take you now to Tokyo—" . . . "Informed quarters in Tokyo report—" . . . From newspapers and radio comes evidence that Japan's capital city and largest metropolis of the Far East is a news center of the Orient.

At the head of landlocked Tokyo Bay on Japan's Pacific edge, Tokyo has been the world's third largest city since its 1930 boundary revision. The 1939 census estimated 6,581,000 Tokyoites (exceeded only by the populations of London and New York). Tokyo is nearly ten times larger than the United States' capital.

Ten Years at War, Yet Listens to Lotus Buds

Besides being the administrative center of the 150,000 square miles of Japan proper, Tokyo is official capital of the 900,000-square-mile Rising Sun Empire, policy headquarters for occupied areas in China, and financial center for the economic net Japan has spread from mid-Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

For ten years this has been the feverish center of a nation at war or planning war. Therein lies relatively peaceful Tokyo's most striking contradiction. London in two years of blitz has brewed a new and bombproof way of living; Moscow in five months of war has changed from a capital to a fortress. But Tokyo, after sowing armies across Asia from Manchukuo to Thailand, still invites its citizens out at dawn in August to hear the lotus buds pop open in Uyeno Park, to the Meiji Shrine to view the iris in June, to Kuji to enjoy plum blossoms in early spring.

Tokyo's "moga" (Japanese slang for "modern girl") completes her education with *ikebana* (the art of arranging flowers in vases) and typewriting (lessons free if you buy a machine), then works as a bus conductor to release men for war.

Became Japan's Eastern Gateway to Western World

Tokyo is a new name on the map of Japan, but an old city. As Yedo, it was for nearly three centuries the headquarters of the Tokugawa Shoguns, the military dictators who wielded the Emperor's power while leaving him the glory. After the U. S. Navy's intervention upset the shogunate, the Emperor in 1868 moved his administration center from Kyoto, the ancient "Western Capital," to Yedo, which then became Tokyo, or "Eastern Capital." The move from peaceful Kyoto's inland site to Tokyo's coastal location, in touch with the Western world, started Japan's westernization in many respects, from music to warfare.

Though capital of a 2,600-year-old empire, Tokyo appears to be the newest metropolis of the Far East. The strikingly fresh and Western face of the city is due to one of the most devasting earthquakes history has recorded. In April, 1923, about 45 per cent of the area was wrecked by quake and fire, and 70,000 people perished. In seven years the city was rebuilt on a pattern somewhat like that of Washington, D. C., with wide streets taking up a quarter of its area and 100 parks. In 1930 a priest hovered above it in an airplane to bless the new sections.

The Imperial Diet meets in a building corresponding to the U. S. Capitol—a granite-faced structure of concrete reinforced with 9,000 tons of steel, topped by a 216-foot tower. When the Mitsui bank was finished, it had the largest floor devoted to banking in the world. Giant department stores, modern to the last escalator, run free busses to collect customers. An eight-story office building is pointed out as the "largest east of Suez." The larger of the city's two stadiums seats 80,000,

UMI

and in importance to internal trade and communications. And, as most of the Soviet Union's people are concentrated in European Russia west of the Volga, so the bulk of United States population lives east of the Mississippi, with the center of United States population in Indiana.

Although the Ukraine wheat production now represents only about a quarter of the total Russian crop, the still serious loss of Ukrainian wheat fields would as yet have no counterpart in this area-for-area comparison with the United States. For the Great American wheat-growing regions all lie to the west of the Mississippi River, from central Texas north to the Canadian prairie provinces. Likewise, east of Moscow and the Ukraine, Russia has vast farm lands as yet undamaged.

The U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. show other striking similarities: the Ukraine, with strong sectional feeling, is like the American South; the Gulf of Mexico is an enlarged American Black Sea, with vital shipyards and oil, fruit, and raw material shipments; semi-tropical Florida matches the warm Crimea.

The American West Coast industrial areas are comparable to the new factory and mill centers the Soviet Union has in the Kuznetsk region of central Siberia, the Tashkent-Alma Ata area of Turkestan, and the Pacific Far East. The snow-capped mountains of the Russian boundaries with China and Afghanistan resemble the Rockies and Sierras of the American West. Of course the U.S.S.R., occupying about a sixth of the earth's land area, is on a larger scale than the United States. A 3,000-mile flight would cross the American continent, but eastward across the Soviet Union it would reach only to the center of Russia's Asiatic territories.

Note: For map study of Russia, see the Society's 1940 Map of Europe and the Near East. A price list for this and other maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C. See also these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "The Big Four of Russia's Beleaguered Cities," October 20, 1941; "Russia's Ukraine Holds Grain and Mineral Riches," October 13, 1941; and "Soviet Union, Giant Among Nations," October 6, 1941.

Bulletin No. 1, November 24, 1941.

Photograph by Irvine C. Gardner

STEPPES OF THE U.S.S.R. ARE AS FLAT AS THE GREAT PLAINS OF THE U. S.

Both the United States and the U.S.S.R. have vast expanses of flat countryside reaching almost unbroken beyond the horizon. In both nations the level land is used for large-scale farming, planted chiefly in wheat. Parts of the plains in both countries are dry, and plagued with dust storms. This region of little rain and thin grass, comparable to American "Dust Bowl" areas, was photographed in Kazakistan. While some of the land is cultivated with tractors as well as camel-drawn agricultural machinery, the grass is left to protect the soil from the wind in other areas. When astronomers gathered to photograph the sun's eclipse in 1936, country people sat on the grass for impromptu lectures from visiting scientists.

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Johnston Island Watched by Navy for 80 Years

(This is the thirteenth of a series on the defense bases.)

THE recent commissioning of lonely mid-Pacific Johnston Island as a U. S. Naval Air Station is the climax of eighty years of intermittent interest in the island on the part of Uncle Sam.

On the U.S.S. *Fenimore Cooper*, a schooner, Lieut. J. M. Brooks visited the island and investigated it first for the U. S. Navy in 1859. It was a brush-covered, bird-haunted knob of coral rock barely a half-mile long and half as wide, the highest point on a submerged coral reef eight miles long. It was difficult to land, because of the breakers and the ever-present menace of the reef. Boats could reach the island only at high tide. The recent improvements, however, have removed these dangers. The reef, like most other coral atolls, encloses a lagoon.

Wings of Birds and Planes Are Island Symbols

For years after the Navy's inspection the island's importance lay in its guano deposits, collected by an American company for sale as fertilizer in the United States.

When the company's lease expired, in 1926, the United States proclaimed Johnston a bird reservation, since it was the undisturbed breeding place of thousands of winged creatures. This arrangement places the island, though about 3,000 miles from the United States, under the protection of the U. S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fish abound in the shallow waters washing the reef, swimming near the surface in great schools. Flocks of birds hover above them, swooping down to dive into the water occasionally for a wriggling catch.

Birds breeding on the island include the comical black-footed albatross and the Laysan albatross, as big as a goose when fully grown and with a wingspread of several feet. Visitors to other Pacific islands have dubbed the albatross the "gooney bird," because its clumsy and amusing conduct seems to call for an undignified name. The gooneys lay their eggs without nests on top of the sand (illustration, next page).

Shearwaters Hide in Sand by Day

The shearwater, on the other hand, burrows into the sand and nearly buries itself during the day, preferring to fly and feed at night. The wedge-tailed variety of shearwater has a moaning call that suggests a crying baby, particularly in the silence of night.

Other bird inhabitants of Johnston Island are the booby birds—the red-footed, blue-faced, and common varieties—and the terns, the man-o'-war or frigate birds, and the bosun bird.

Wings of another sort, however, cast their shadow over the isolated mid-Pacific bird refuge with the opening up of trans-Pacific air routes. Seven years ago on December 29, 1934, by Executive Order, Johnston was made a U. S. Naval Defense Area, and all foreign vessels and aircraft were prohibited. But for American aviators it was considered as an alternate stopover for the Clipper planes' sky route between Hawaii and New Zealand. It was visited in 1937 by the late Capt. Musick and his *Samoan Clipper* on an exploratory flight shortly before the plane's fatal crash. The route finally decided on lies southeast of Johnston via Kingman Reef and Pago Pago.

UMI

and for the very popular "adopted" game of baseball is crowded to the last row.

Five railroad stations, more than 200 miles of electric trolley routes, fleets of busses, and a subway system have crowded out the rickshaw except for old-fashioned tourists. Five thousand bridges, most of stone or iron and concrete, cross the Sumida River and numerous canals. Automobile horns and bicycle bells drown out the call of the bean-curd peddler or the sunset temple bell.

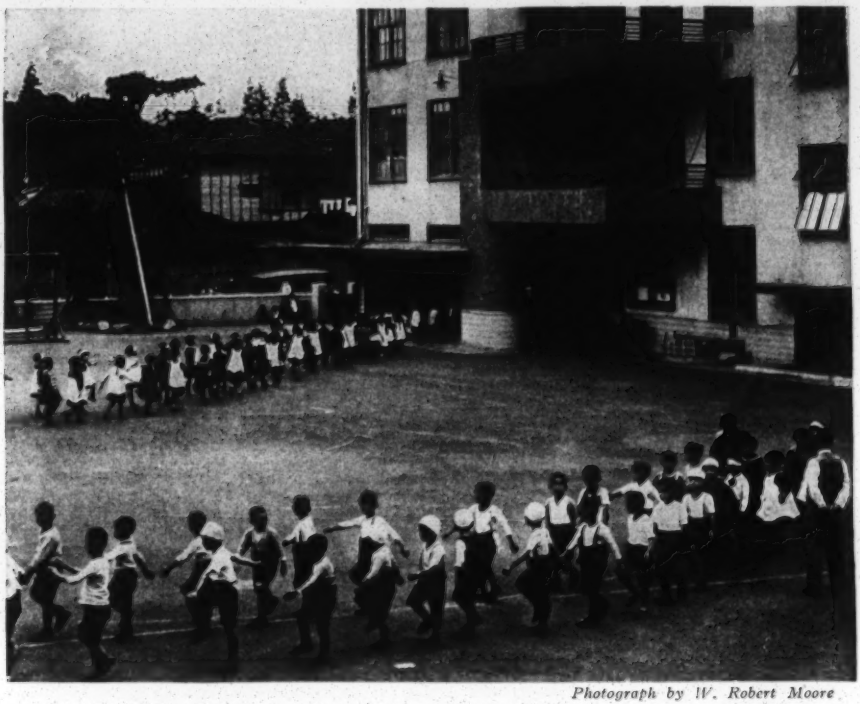
Yet Tokyo, beyond the apartment house and business sections, is a typical Japanese "matchbox city" of unpainted wooden houses, more than half of them one story high. But electric lights and radio are common in rooms furnished oriental-style, where mats on the spotless satiny wood floor substitute for chairs and beds.

The Japanese capital, unlike Washington, D. C., is an industrial city, with about 43,000 factories of all sizes, a third of them processing foodstuffs. The average plant, however, does not employ more than ten people. The machine and tool industry within the city limits employs 131,000 workers. Other metal works require 60,000, besides the textile, chemical, and woodworking establishments.

Note: For more information on Tokyo see these *National Geographic Magazine* articles: "Japan, Child of the World's Old Age," March, 1933; "Tokyo Today," February, 1932.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS on Japan include: "Bulk of Japanese Trade Is with U. S. and Great Britain," November 11, 1940; "Measuring Japan's Dominions," October 28, 1940; and "Trade with Japan, Less Than Century Old, Amounts to Millions," November 27, 1939.

Bulletin No. 2, November 24, 1941.



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

AN OUTDOOR RECESS FOLLOWS EACH CLASS PERIOD IN TOKYO SCHOOLS

The schedule in Tokyo's 1,733 lower-grade schools calls for a 15-minute recess between classes, with parallel bars (background, left) and other gymnastic equipment to encourage outdoor exercise. A loudspeaker (lower balcony, right) signals the end of recess. After playing together, boys line up apart from the girls to march back to their separate classrooms. The fireproof school is a sample of Tokyo's new construction since 1923; it has modern lines, ample windows, sunny balconies, and usable roof space. Pine trees shade a typical residential section; the one- and two-story wooden houses have tile roofs (usually gray) and removable sliding partitions for at least one outer wall, screened from the street with curtains of bamboo.

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Afghanistan, a Friendly Barrier between India and U.S.S.R.

THE railroadless kingdom of Afghanistan has yielded to joint British-Russian warnings and is ousting German and Italian nationals from its territory. Thus the lofty mountain nation continues to play the role for which geography has cast it—that of a buffer state subject to pressure from British-ruled India on the south and the Soviet Union on the north.

Now that Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. are military allies, Afghanistan still acts as a physical barrier to transport and communication between them. There the earth begins in earnest its rise to mountain heights that reach a climax in the "Roof of the World" in the Himalayas to the east.

The Nation's Mountain Walls Separate New Allies

In the northeast part of Afghanistan, only a narrow strip separates northernmost India from the Tadzhik region of Russia, but the mighty walls of the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountains as yet are unsurmounted by road or rail. Their peaks reach altitudes of 23,000 to 25,000 feet.

Afghanistan is considerably larger than France. It is the mountainous, semi-arid home of ten million fiercely independent people, mostly Mohammedans. The fertile land of France supports more than four times as many inhabitants. About two-thirds of the people are nomads. Along the hill trails wanders a motley parade of Afghans, Pathans, Ghilzai, Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, Kaffirs, and Hazaras.

Camels, ponies, and donkeys still must carry the bulk of men and goods through this rugged country. New motor roads and improving communications, however, gradually are modernizing the larger towns, particularly Kabul, the capital.

Kabul lies only about 100 miles west of Khyber Pass, main route from India into Afghanistan and scene of periodic border skirmishes between warlike hill tribes and British Tommies.

Britain and Russia Were Rivals for Kabul

High and mostly barren, Afghanistan has fertile irrigated valleys that produce excellent fruits, vegetables, and grains, as well as cotton and tobacco. The country has great extremes of temperature, varying with mountain elevations. Between the arctic heights of the tallest peaks and the intensly hot lower valleys, vegetation spans the wide variety from hardy evergreens to orchids, mimosas, and wild olives.

In this relatively rainless region, the climate and soil are generally better suited to pastoral life than to farming. Large flocks of sheep of the fat-tailed variety provide mutton, grease, wool, and skins. Persian lamb-skins are a leading export. Timber, fruits, spices, carpets, hides, and raw wool also are shipped from the country.

The valuable mineral resources known to lie under the nation's soil still are largely undeveloped.

With Baluchistan and India on the south and east, the kingdom of Afghanistan has long been considered a British sphere of influence. The Soviet Union, however, by subsidizing Afghan telegraph lines, roads, and the air force, also gained influence in the country. Russian penetration had been curtailed in recent years.

Kabul, situated more than a mile above sea level, is far from being a crude or primitive city, in spite of its remoteness. About 80,000 people now live there. The Afghan capital has electric lights, a hydroelectric plant, telephones, automobiles,

UMI

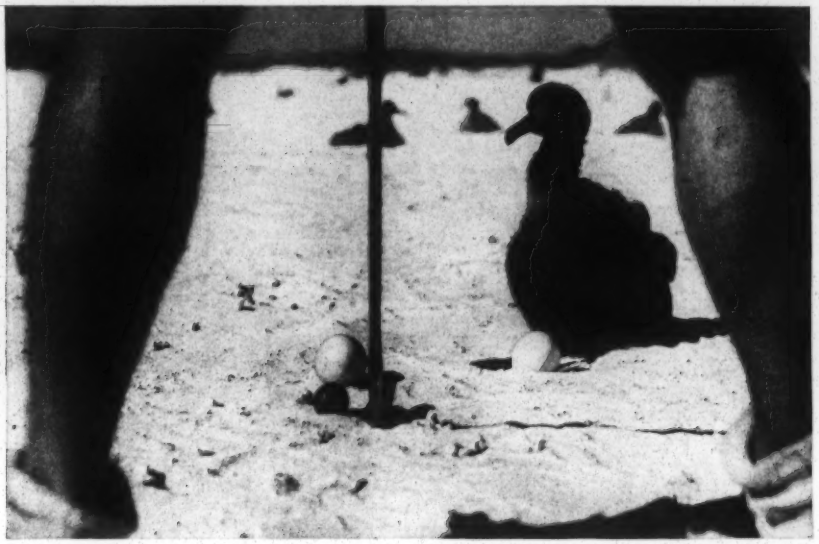
Johnston Island's nearest neighbors are the Hawaiian Islands, some 700 miles to the northeast. It is the only land in a vast unbroken stretch of the Pacific just south of the important transocean air route between Hawaii and Wake Island, the quickest line of communication between the United States and the Orient.

Johnston has a less-than-mapping-size sister island, Sand Island, a short distance to the northeast on the same coral reef. It is a low-lying spot barely a quarter-mile long, but its flat surface makes it especially useful for the seaplane ramps and plane-parking areas of the Navy's base. The two islands are referred to as the Johnston group.

A British sea captain, who discovered Johnston Island on December 14, 1807, gave it his name. It is also known by the name of his stately old sailing vessel, the *Cornwallis*.

Note: Johnston Island is shown in its mid-Pacific position, near the Hawaiian Islands, on the National Geographic Society's Map of the Pacific Ocean. The price list for this and other maps published by the Society may be obtained from the headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Bulletin No. 3, November 24, 1941.



Photograph from Pan American Airways System

GOONEY MEETS MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME AND BECOMES A GOLF HAZARD

Like other mid-Pacific islands, Johnston is a breeding place for the black-footed albatross, nicknamed "gooney." This strong-winged bird lives at sea for most of the year, settling down on an uninhabited island about the first of November for a brief domestic period of hatching eggs and raising chicks. Coleridge described one that followed a ship tirelessly for nine days until the Ancient Mariner shot it. Since it is attacked by sharks and other sea enemies, the albatross regards man with more curiosity than fear. Americans recently stationed on these bird islands of the Pacific (here photographed on Midway Island) can play golf on the beaches where albatrosses nest, and disturb only the birds nearest the ball. The chicks are fed on small squid caught at sea by their parents and regurgitated.

U. S. DEFENSE BASES SERIES

This is the thirteenth of a series of bulletins on U. S. defense bases. Many of the other bulletins of the series are available at the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society. Teachers whose subscriptions began after this series started, or who wish to replace copies missing from their files, may obtain the bulletins free of charge as long as the supply lasts.

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Muftis Interpret Moslem Law

HAJ AMIN AL-HUSSEINI, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, recently fleeing from Palestine through Iraq and Iran, was given refuge at last in Italy. Making Palestine his headquarters, he formerly had headed Arab opposition to any plans for making Palestine a national Jewish home. Disturbances traced to his influence made it difficult for the British to keep peace in the Holy Land, which since the first World War has been under British mandate.

The Grand Mufti normally serves as president of the Moslem Supreme Council of Palestine, which controls Mohammedan religious affairs.

Mufti Was State Head of Mohammedan Church

In Turkey also the title of Mufti applies to the official head of the Mohammedan religion of that state, and to the deputies under him in some of the larger cities.

A mufti in general is any Mohammedan priest or expounder of the law. Judges of the ecclesiastical courts apply to him for expert opinion on points arising in the administration of Moslem law as set down in the Koran, supplemented by a growing body of tradition and accepted opinion.

The Moslem's need for a mufti to guide him is apparent from a quick glance at the infinite variety and number of laws involved. The Koran itself sets down rules for the believer's personal, political, business, and religious conduct; its phrasing is poetic and symbolic, often subject to two interpretations. This sacred book is supplemented by the collected precepts and examples of Mohammed himself. Old Arabic laws based on ancient custom are still respected to a certain extent, and the decisions of generations of muftis through past centuries must be considered.

Name Was Borrowed To Describe Civilian Dress

These laws are so detailed as to prohibit a man from wearing any article of leather, pure silk, or gold while offering a prayer; women, however, are not so restricted. Regulations prescribe what water is considered suitable for purification and whether one should wash his arms from wrist to shoulder or from shoulder to wrist. Other laws apply to marriage, the payment of taxes, diet, the interest to be paid on loans, inheritance, musical instruments, and pictures.

Muftis are highly respected by Moslems, although they have no official status. Strictly speaking, the Moslem church has no organization, no clergy, no liturgy comparable to that of the Catholic Church. The muftis are savants who have learned the divine law by deep study, but they do not constitute a clerical caste.

Muftis in all Moslem countries are easily recognized by their long, loose robes and their turbans, formal dress of their office. With British forces in India originated the custom of applying the term "mufti" to the civilian dress of the military and naval service men. It has been suggested that this common use of the word may have been derived from the makeshift costume of dressing gown, smoking cap, and slippers in which actors at times portrayed the muftis on the stage.

Note: For other Moslem customs, see the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine:* "An Unbeliever Joins the Hadj," June, 1934; "Pilgrim's Progress to Mecca," November, 1937; "Pageant of Jerusalem," December, 1927.

See also the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Mecca Pilgrimage Ends Moslem Year," March 4, 1940; "Sacred Fast of Ramadan Observed by Moslem World," October 27, 1941; and "'Moslem World' Includes One of Every Ten Persons on Earth," November 14, 1938.

Bulletin No. 5, November 24, 1941.

UMI

machine shops, munitions works, and factories producing a variety of goods. A radio station and an airport are among Kabul's recent developments.

Caravan routes link the capital with other principal cities of Afghanistan—Herat, Kandahar, and Mazar-i-Sharif. Ranging in size from 60,000 inhabitants (Kandahar) to 30,000 (Mazar-i-Sharif), these are the capitals of provinces and locally important commercial centers.

Note: The National Geographic Society's 38¼ x 31 inch Map of Asia outlines Afghanistan and shows desert lands and tundras. A price list for this and other maps of the Society may be obtained from the headquarters in Washington, D. C.

See also the following *National Geographic Magazine* articles: "Afghanistan Makes Haste Slowly," December, 1933; "The Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition Reaches Kashmir," October, 1931; and "Every-Day Life in Afghanistan," January, 1921.

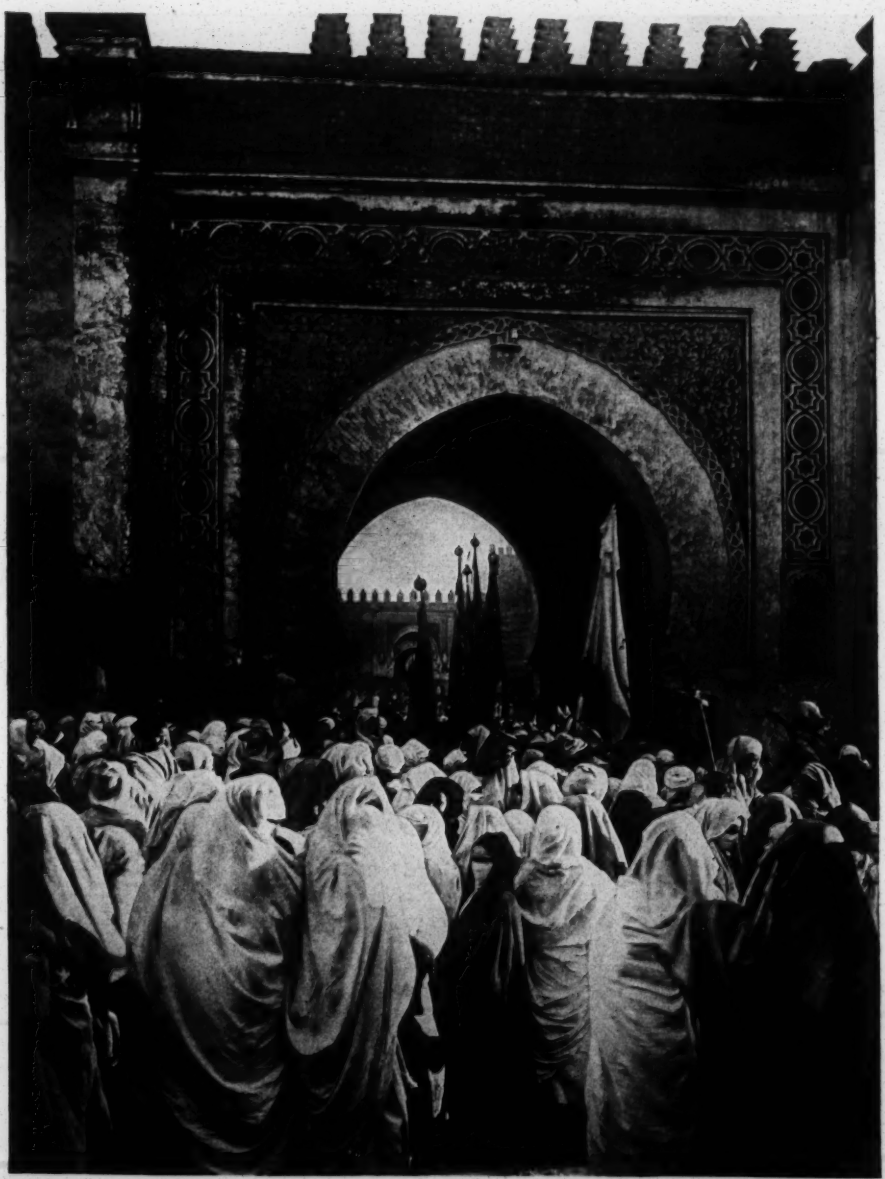
GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS issued February 10, 1941, contained information about the currency of Afghanistan. The issue for April 27, 1936, contained the article, "Afghanistan Turns West."

Bulletin No. 4, November 24, 1941.

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

A BIRD-CHARMER IS THE PIED PIPER OF HERAT

Like the snake-charmers of India, the Afghan bird-charmer amuses the bystanders with the performances of his well-cared-for pets. The boys trooping after him are probably not playing truant, since the 130 elementary schools in Afganistan educate only a small fraction of the country's youth. These boys of Herat, in western Afghanistan near the Iranian frontier, are most likely to speak Persian, while their fellow countrymen in the eastern half of the nation use the Pushtu tongue.



Photograph by Barcelo-Bernal

IN FESTIVALS AND FASTS MOROCCO'S MOSLEMS FOLLOW THE MUFTI'S GUIDANCE

Prior to the French protectorate, Moslem teachings were the law of the land in Morocco, and learned muftis were the law's interpreters. Muftis of the distant past were responsible for a striking feature of Moorish architecture apparent in this keyhole gateway in Fez: the ornamental design is wholly geometric, because Moslem law forbade artists or sculptors to portray the human form. The crowd is assembling for a religious festival in honor of the Moslem saint Aisawa. Their clothing, prayers, food, and fasting are prescribed by law. Women in the crowd, muffled to the eyelashes, are prohibited from entering Fez's famous Karouiine Mosque, the largest in Africa, but they may kiss the door lintels.